

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Location: DNREC Lewes Field Office, 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes 19958

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)

Members absent: Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)
Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)
Basil Kollias (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Carrie Leishman (Restaurant Industry)
George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)

Non-members present: Jim Short (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)
Nancy Marker (DNREC) Kim Foster (DNREC)
Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries) Frosty McDaniel (Citizen)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 A.M.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes June 27, 2013 Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved without edits.

RPAC Appointments

BJ explained that now that RPAC is a body that exists in state statute, Members can only serve for two consecutive terms without a break. For this reason there should be chart of which current members second term expires and who the suggested replacement is. In the event a member is not notified of re-appointment after their first term, their term automatically continues unless they have resigned or been relieved from their position. Julie suggested that there also be an evaluation of member attendance at RPAC meetings and replacement of those members who are not meeting attendance requirements.

Annual Report/Measurement

Jim explained that this year's annual report is due November 1, 2013 and currently being drafted. The intent is to email the draft to the full Council by October 14. This will give Council Members time to review the report prior to the next meeting. Final comments will be taken at the October meeting with the intent of having the final report ready for distribution electronically by November 1, 2013. The Measurement and Reporting Subcommittee, which prepares the measurement section of the annual report is meeting October 1, 2013 to discuss this section of the report. Stan discussed the need for Council to prepare it's thoughts regarding the recommendations section of the annual report and follow-up on the previous recommendations to determine their status. On that issue Mike discussed the fact that while few legislators have the time to actually read the

entire report, when he is discussing waste management issues with legislators he references the report to ensure they are aware of key recycling issues.

Recycling Funding Overview

Bill gave an overview of the status of universal recycling fund accruals, expenditures, and debts. He shared that he and staff were updating numbers and formulas prior to the meeting and found the table to be misrepresentative. He apologized for that and said he would have a more accurate and refined spreadsheet for the next meeting. Despite the layout, Bill did share that funding is in order, DNREC is very careful not to spend money it doesn't have, and there will conservatively be about \$5 million remaining for future grant cycles. As part of the discussion, Bill added that DNREC is planning to spend the future grant funding over several grant cycles extending beyond 2014. Related to the subject of funding BJ suggested that the Grant Subcommittee also meet before October 28th in preparation for the next grant offering which has been suggested by DNREC to open in early November and close mid-December. A revised grant guidance document is forthcoming for RPAC review.

Meeting Schedule through June of 2014

The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2013 at 1:30 in New Castle County. There is currently no meeting scheduled for November 2013 and the December meeting is scheduled for the 18th at 1:30 in Sussex County but is subject to revision. An online scheduling program will be emailed via DNREC staff to schedule the balance of the meetings thru June 2014 based on the joint availability of all Council Members.

Universal Recycling Compliance

Bill discussed the fact that some complaints regarding some smaller haulers have been received suggesting they are non-compliant with the single-family, single-stream curbside recycling requirements of universal recycling. DNREC was able to confirm the validity of the complaints based on its own observations and has issued Notices of Violation to those haulers. Current evidence suggests they are now in compliance. DNREC will continue to respond to issues of non-compliance as they arise.

Recycling Market Update

There has been a slight improvement in the recyclables markets since the last meeting and the forecast is positive. Mike stressed the importance of minimal contamination in recyclables due to more stringent acceptance standards being employed by end users, driven primarily by China's "Green Fence" standards.

Old/New Business

Marj stated that the Chapel Street Yard Waste site now has the DelDOT and New Castle County approvals and is expected to open later this fall. The Polly Drummond site would remain as is for now, but DNREC will soon release a request for proposals on the management of the Polly Drummond Hill Road yard waste drop-off site, or establishment of a nearby alternative.

Additional Public Comments

Mr. McDaniel expressed concern over the value of recyclables if we are unable to reduce the amount of contamination and also expressed concern over the fact that the projected bottle fee revenue will not be met and wanted to know what is being done to make up for the shortfall. Bill explained that the Division of Revenue evaluates stores to make sure they are paying properly and that at this point in time there is nothing that can be done to make up for the short fall, but DNREC is managing the funding accordingly. It is very unlikely that the legislature would extend the bottle fee in order to do so.

Next Meeting

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Adjourn

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:10 am.